AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Presently Amended) A composition for the care and maintenance of water-resistance surfaces, comprising: (A) at least one mineral from the group ~~fo~~ of sheet silicates with an average mineral lamina size of $<10^{-7}$ m; (B) a non-ionic surfactant, the ratio of sheet silicate to surfactant ranging from 5:1 to 1:7; and/or (C) polyethylene glycol and/or polypropylene glycol, wherein the composition is capable of forming a film.

2. (Original) The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sheet silicate is a synthetic material.

3. (Original) The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sheet silicate is a mica-like sheet silicate.

4. (Original) The composition as claimed in claim 3, wherein the silicate component has been chosen from among natural smectites and sheet silicates prepared on the basis of natural smectites or synthetic sheet silicates with a composition similar to that of smectites.

5. (Original) The composition as claimed in claim 4, wherein the sheet silicate is hectorite or a synthetic trioctahedral alkali metal magnesium silicate.

6. (Original) The composition as claimed in claim 1, which in addition contains a liquefier, in order to eliminate the thixotropy effect of the sheet silicate.

7. (Original) The composition as claimed in claim 1, which contains a non-ionic surfactant with ethylene glycol groups and/or propylene glycol groups.

8. (Original) The composition as claimed in claim 1, which contains polyethylene glycol and/or polypropylene glycol with a molecular weight in the range between 200 and 20,000.

9. (Original) The composition as claimed in claim 1, which in addition contains one or more of the following ingredients: (a) wetting agent/flow-control agent, (b) sequestering agent, (c) agent for adjusting the pH value, (d) water-miscible organic solvent, (e) solubilizer, (f) preservative, (g) perfume oil, (h) anionic surfactant, (i) cationic surfactant, (j) amphoteric surfactant, (k) soap.

10. (Original) The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ratio of sheet silicate to surfactant ranges from 3:1 to 1:5.

11. (Original) The composition as claimed in claim 10, wherein the composition contains 1 to 45% of the combination of sheet silicate and surfactant, the rest water and optional ingredients.

12. (Original) The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ratio of silicate to polyethylene glycol and polypropylene glycol ranges from 1:10 to 20:1.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Presently Amended) A method for the cleaning and care of water-resistant surfaces~~, wherein first of all a composition as claimed in claim 1 is diluted with water to the use level and the dilute composition is then applied onto the surface~~ comprising the steps of:

providing a composition comprising: (A) at least one mineral from the group of sheet silicates with an average mineral lamina size of $<10^{-7}$ m; (B) a non-ionic surfactant, the ratio of sheet silicate to surfactant ranging from 5:1 to 1:7; and/or (C) polyethylene glycol and/or

polypropylene glycol, wherein the composition is capable of forming a film;

diluting the composition with water to a use-level;

applying the diluted composition onto the surface resulting in cleaning of the surface and forming a residue on the surface; and

drying the residue to thereby form the film containing the surfactant and the sheet silicate.

15. (Newly Added) The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the composition is capable of forming a transparent film.

16. (Newly Added) The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein a surfactant of the composition consists solely of the non-ionic surfactant.

17. (Newly Added) The composition as claimed in claim 1, having a pH value of from 5 to 10.